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Sale of lorries of the Civil Supplies Department.

11-10 a.m. * 284 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that ten lorries belonging to the Civil Supplies Department were sold recently;

(*b*) if so, to whom the sale was made;

(*c*) what the total amount for which the lorries were sold was; and

(*d*) whether the sale was through auction or by tender?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the sale of lorries belonging to the Civil Supplies Department to the Organizer in charge of the ensuing Congress Session at Avadi. Only four lorries were sold to the organizer."

" (*c*) The lorries were sold to him for Rs. 22,000 only.

" (*d*) The sale was made by private negotiations."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இந்த நான்கு லாரிகளையும் அவர்களுக்கு விற்பதற்கு என்ன காரணம் ? ஏதோ ஆவடி காங்கிரசுக்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்வதற்காக என்பதுதான் இதன் நோக்கமா அல்லது அந்த லாரிகளுக்கு வேறு நியாயமான விலை வரவில்லை என்பதனால் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that there is no idea behind this transaction of giving any subsidy to the Reception Committee of the Congress. Sir, on account of the decontrol of rice, about 53 lorries in the possession of the Civil Supplies Department were found to be surplus. The Government have reserved 20 best lorries for the use of various departments like Transport, Agriculture, Forests, Police, etc. Regarding the other lorries, Sir, the Government have found that it would be more advantageous to the Government if they could sell these lorries by negotiations, at not less than the market price. Regarding the four lorries sold, the book price is nil and the market price was assessed at Rs. 19,500. Here was an offer of Rs. 22,000 from the Reception Committee of the Congress and the Government found that they could not get more than this and that if they were sold by auction or tender, they would get much less than the market price. Therefore, the Government felt that it would be advantageous financially to the Government if they should accept that offer of Rs. 22,000 which is Rs. 2,500 more than the market price.

I may also tell the hon. Member that the Government negotiated similarly with the Corporation of Madras which wanted some of these lorries. The Corporation offered to take seven lorries and the Government agreed to the sale

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of these seven lorries at the market price. But the Corporation have since intimated the Government that they will take only three lorries as against seven lorries originally asked for by them."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இந்த லாரிகள் எல்லாம் காங்கிரஸ் கட்சிக்கு விற்கப்பட்டதா, அல்லது வேறு ஒருவருக்கு விற்கப்பட்டதா என்பதைப்பற்றி எல்லாம் எங்களுக்குக் கவலையில்லை. ஆனால் சர்க்கார் பணம் போட்டு இந்த லாரிகளை வாங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தப் பணம் பொது மக்களுடையது. ஆகவே சரியான விலைக்கு இந்த லாரிகள் விற்கப்பட்டனவா ? அல்லது இந்த லாரிகளை விற்றதன் மூலம் சர்க்காருக்கு நஷ்டம் உண்டாயிற்றா என்பதை அறியவே நாங்கள் விரும்புகிறோம். ஆகவே மார்க்கெட் விலைக்கு மேல் விற்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்களே, மார்க்கெட் விலை என்னவென்று யார் நிர்ணயித்தார்கள் ? எந்த அடிப்படையில் அந்த மார்க்கெட் விலையையும் நிர்ணயித்தார்கள் என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It was our experts of the Government Transport who determined the market price and the Government chose to have this transaction because they found that they could get more than the market price."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த நான்கு லாரிகளை இவர்களுக்கு விற்பதற்கு முன்பாக வேறு யாரிடமாவது இந்த விற்பனை சம்பந்தமாகத் தொடர்பு கொள்ளப்பட்டதா ? அந்த லாரிகளுக்கு 22 ஆயிரம் ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் வேறு யாராவது ஒரு சில ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் அதிகமாகக் கொடுக்க முன் வந்தால் சர்க்கார் அவர்களுக்கு விற்க முன் வருமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are still more than four lorries for disposal and I would certainly be obliged to the hon. Member if he could help me in getting more than the market price for them, and let me see whether they would fetch anything more than the market price. Regarding the other four lorries, though the transaction has been completed still I would try whether we could get more than Rs. 22,000."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether the sale of these lorries was advertised widely and whether it was effected in open, broad day-light? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" All these transactions are done only in day-light and not during the night. There was no advertisement."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" May I know how many Hon. Ministers of this Government are on the Congress Reception Committee? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with this question? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question must be put to the Reception Committee."

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Irrespective of the question of loss or gain involved in a particular case, are not the Government setting up a very bad precedent by selling Government property by private sale rather than by public tender? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are extraordinary cases. The Government are also interested in getting the maximum price for these old used lorries and, therefore, this is not a wrong precedent."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know, who is that lucky organizer of the Congress Session at Avadi, to whom they were sold? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" They were sold to the Reception Committee."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Who is the organizer of the Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" To-day there may be one organizer. To-morrow there may be another organizer."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is it a fact that when the question of the sale of these lorries came up before the Government, the then Chief Minister, Sri C. Rajagopalachari, got these lorries examined by a mechanical engineer and the minimum price was fixed at Rs. 9,000? Now, the Hon. Minister said in his statement, that it was sold for a lesser amount. What is the changed situation—apart from a change in the Ministry—which warranted a reduction in the selling price of these lorries? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no such information with me. If Rs. 9,000 or anything more than that had been offered, these lorries would have been long ago disposed of."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இந்த லாரிகள் ஸ்ரீ ராமநாத் கோயங்காவுக்கு விற்கப்பட்டன என்பது உண்மையா? காங்கிரஸ் செஷனுக்கு உபயோகப்படுத்தப்பட்ட பிறகு அந்த லாரிகள் ராமநாத் கோயங்காவையே சேர்ந்தது என்ற அடிப்படையில் அவர் பேரிலே விற்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதும் உண்மையா, இல்லையா? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I know that Sri Ramanath Goenka is a member of the Reception Committee and he has been taking an active part in it. But this transaction is with reference to the requirements of the Congress Committee and not of Sri Ramanath Goenka."

SRI A. RATNAM :—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, நான் கேட்க வேண்டுமென்று விரும்பிய கேள்வியையே ஸ்ரீ கல்யாணசுந்தரம் கேட்டார்கள்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" அப்பொழுது நீங்கள் கேள்வி கேட்காவிட்டால் உட்கார்ந்து கொள்ளுங்களேன்."

SRI A. RATNAM :—"அவரது கேள்விக்கு கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அளித்த பதிலின்மேல் ஒரு உப கேள்வி கேட்க விரும்புகின்றேன். இந்த

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நான்கு லாரிகளும் காங்கிரஸ் செஷன் ஆர்கனைஸிங் கமிட்டிக்கு விற்கப்பட்டதாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் அந்த லாரிகள் ஸ்ரீ கோயங்காவின் பேரிலேயே விற்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. பில் அவர் பேரிலேயேதான் போடப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களால் மறுக்க முடியுமா ? காங்கிரஸ் செஷன் முடிந்த பிறகு அந்த லாரிகள் யாருக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்வார்களா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' About the name of the person to whom the bill is addressed, I would like to have notice. I have no information with me just now. To whomsoever we have once sold these lorries, it is for them to dispose of them.''

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—'' In view of the fact that the ruling party is the Congress Party and the Reception Committee of the Congress Party has purchased them, would the Government see that such a sale which savours very ill and even suggests something not very creditable, is not repeated hereafter? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' I do not at all accept the premise of the hon. Member that it savours anything ill.''

SRI K. T. RAJU :—'' கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த லாரிகளை விற்றால் அதை யார் ஒருவர் பேரிலாவது தானே விற்கவேண்டும். ஆகவே அந்த லாரிகள் யார் பேரிலே விற்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்வாரா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' I have already stated that I do not have that information just now.''

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—'' இம்மாதிரி லாரிகளை வாங்க ஏற்கனவே கார்ப்பொரேஷன் பேச்சு வார்த்தைகள் நடத்தின என்று சொன்னார். காங்கிரஸ் வரவேற்புக் கமிட்டிக்கு விற்பதையும், சென்னைக் கார்ப்பொரேஷனுக்கு விற்பதையும் ஒரே தரத்தில் வைத்துப் பார்க்கக்கூடாது என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் உணர்கிறார்களா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' If it is a question of any facility or concession or consideration, I do agree with the hon. Member that a distinction has to be made between the Corporation and an institution like the Congress, a political organization. There is no question of showing any consideration in this transaction.''

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—'' Are these the only lorries which show a 'nil' value in the books? Are there also other lorries which show 'nil' value according to the books? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Most of the lorries show 'nil' value according to the books.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' In view of the momentary importance which this subject has gained on the floor of this House, may I request the Chair to allow a half-hour debate on it? ''

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I will allow the half-hour debate but when does the hon. Member want it? Shall we have it tomorrow? "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" To-morrow, being Friday, is a Sabbath day for us, Hindus, and we have to go to temple."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member can go after 5-30 p.m."

Retrenchment in the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke.

* 291 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister
11-20 a.m. for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, retrenched eight workers on 21st July 1954 without paying them any compensation thus violating section 25-F of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as amended in 1953; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) Government have no information. A report has been called for from local officers and suitable action will be taken, if necessary."

National Cadet Corps.

* 151 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any promise of financial aid from the Centre for starting additional National Cadet Corps Units in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, in how many additional institutions the Government propose to start such units in the next academic year; and

(c) how many, if any, in North Malabar?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have agreed to bear about 50 per cent of the total expenditure on National Cadet Corps in the States.

" (b) & (c) This is still under consideration and a final decision will be taken in consultation with Government of India."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that for building up a brave, new Bharat which is our primary task a new generation of strong, disciplined and educated young men should be built up immediately, would the Government cast off its timid and tepid policy in starting National Cadet Corps Units in schools and colleges and make it compulsory that every school and college should have a National Cadet Corps Unit? "